

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 16453 230554Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W
----- 101983 /10 R
R 230430Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 16453

FOR SCARRITT FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ABUD EMIN ENRG
SUBJ: REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER

REF: A. STATE 307358 B. STATE 245655 (NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ON SUBJECT OF REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER AS CONTAINED REFTEL A.
2. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT HERE OF POSITION AS DESCRIBED. FIRST, WE QUESTION WHETHER MARK JOHNSON OR ANY OFFICER FROM JAKARTA CAN ESTABLISH SUFFICIENTLY BROAD CONTACTS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO MEET BROAD REQUIREMENTS OF POSITION ON THE BASIS OF PERIODIC VISITS.
3. SECONDLY, WOULD HE NOT BE LARGELY DUPLICATING WORK ALREADY PERFORMED BY EMBASSY MANILA, PARTICULARLY IN BROAD SENSE OF COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS AND POLITICAL-ECONOMIC FACTORS SHAPING THESE ATTITUDES.
4. THIRDLY, MARK JOHNSON DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HANDLE MINERALS HERE. PETROLEUM WORK IN JAKARTA IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND A FULL-TIME JOB. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING PAST YEAR JOHNSON HAS PREPARED PETROLEUM REPORT, HAS FOLLOWED AND CONTINUES TO FOLLOW

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NEW NEGOTIATIONS OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US OIL FIRMS AND GOI, IS FOLLOWING THE TANKER PROBLEMS AND ALSO DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING LNG.

5. IF A USEFUL REGIONAL ROLE IS TO BE PLAYED BY JOHNSON, WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS TO BE AS A REGIONAL PETROLEUM OFFICER. IN

THIS CASE, HE MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO EMBASSY MANILA DUE TO HIS EXPERIENCE HERE, INASMUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES ARE JUST ENTERING THE PETROLEUM FIELD.

6. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, BUT AGAIN ONE WHICH I WOULD CONSIDER WITH RELUCTANCE, WOULD BE TO APPOINT STANLEY IFSHIN AS REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER. IFSHIN PRESENTLY COVERS THE MINERALS FIELD BUT ALSO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TIMBER, FISHING, HANDICRAFTS, AND INTERNAL INDONESIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (IN PART), REPORTS ON THE LOCAL CHINESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, AND, FINALLY, HAS SOME RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

7. IN CONCLUSION, I FIND THAT THE DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER AS GIVEN PARA 4 REFTEL A TO BE FULL-TIME ONES FOR BOTH JOHNSON AND IFSHIN IN INDONESIA ALONE. TO GIVE THEM ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO DUPLICATE EMBASSY MANILA'S WORK AND TO LESSEN THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN JAKARTA WHILE NOT FULLY BENEFITTING MANILA.

8. WE BELIEVE COMMENTS EMBASSY MANILA WOULD ALSO BE PERTINENT TO FINAL DECISION THIS MATTER.

9. WE ARE HOLDING UP REQUEST FOR BUDGET DATA PENDING DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER CONSIDERATION FOREGOING COMMENTS.
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